

From: John Stevenson
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I thought that Microsoft had been found in court to have engaged in anti competitive practices. These practices damaged some smaller companies and left them weaker and/or unable to compete except in niche markets. I see NO signs in this proposed judgement that any attempt is being made to manufacture large strong competitors in a manner that would balance the playing field.

Where is justice in this?

Companies 'killed off' or seriously damaged by Microsoft's illegal actions have - what redress?

Even for the future what serious levelling of the playing field has been done?

I support the suggestion that Microsoft be forced to give cash rather than Microsoft's own products (advertising/training of the next generation of potential purchasers into the Microsoft world) to the disadvantaged schools. Even better might be to force them to make at least part (say - third cash/third competing/third their own - all by retail price) of the 'donation' in open source competing products so that the new generation of schoolchildren are exposed to more than Microsoft based computing systems. How big will the total real value of the 'donation' have to be to really punish them - the figures I have seen do not look like a punishment - just a slap on the wrist for this giant predatory monopoly who used illegal methods to advance their position.

I suggest that since Microsoft have used their illegally obtained virtual monopoly on software to take control world-wide - the schools 'donation fine' (as modified above) should be applicable world-wide and should be massively increased.

The USofA so often sets itself up as the maintainer of Justice and Righteousness for the world - the setter of the standards - let us see it publicly discipline 'one of its own' which has been found guilty of illegal practices that have damaged many people and companies world-wide.

Yours

John Stevenson